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Copy 9 of 9

26 February 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Research)

SUBJECT : IDEALIST Aircraft on Standby for SAC

REFERENCE : Memo for the Special Group from DD/R, Dated  
25 February 1963; Subject: "Proposal for Augmenta-  
tion of TACKLE Assets to Meet Far Eastern Require-  
ments" ☐ 2257-63)

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1. As further to our conversation on 25 February regarding Mr. McCone's reaction to Paragraph 8. a. of the reference (which itself was not sent because of the "North Korean" gaff), Colonel Geary was in my office when you and I were discussing this subject. As you hung up, he immediately volunteered that he personally knew that SAC was not interested in Articles 358 and 359, and that if the Cuban ground environment became so hostile that the SAC U-2's could not be themselves utilized, SAC would regard our modest conversion of airplanes as wholly academic, and as you probably can suppose, their recommendation would be for different means of solving the Cuban reconnaissance problem than with IDEALIST airplanes.

2. Without any prompting from me, Colonel Geary went to the phone and called Dr. Charyk and asked him if he knew who in SAC thought the IDEALIST standby exercise was a good idea. Dr. Charyk replied that the requirement stemmed from Mr. McNamara rather than CINCSAC. At this point Colonel Geary said that rather than continue the unrealistic requirement of deadlining IDEALIST assets, he proposed to undertake immediate installation of the ☐ at Air Force expense on two of SAC's U-2's by Lockheed which would then technically free the Agency from the requirement which is based upon our presently exclusive possession of installed ☐ and ☐ equipment. With this Dr. Charyk apparently concurred, and Colonel Geary said he will move immediately to implement this course of action.

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3. I am not certain that this will give us much more in the next week or so, but it certainly seems to me to be a step in the right direction, since it is not the additional altitude that interests Mr. McNamara in our birds but rather the  and we already have enough on-the-shelf items in our joint procurement with Air Force to permit Colonel Geary's at no cost except for the actual LAC labor on the SAC birds. You may find it opportune to discuss this with Dr. Charyk and the Director as soon as Colonel Geary can furnish some more concrete information about delivery dates which I hope will be rather soon.

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Deputy Assistant Director  
(Special Activities)

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